

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
26 May 1984

EXILE TIPPED REAGAN ON CUBAN WEAPONS
MIAMI

A Bay of Pigs veteran and alleged CIA informant said he gave Ronald Reagan's campaign aides 'extremely explosive' data on Cuba's nuclear and chemical weapons in 1980 because he thought President Carter would ignore it.

Raymond Molina, a wealthy 48-year-old real estate developer, said he went to Key West as a volunteer in 1980 to translate for and 'orient' arriving Mariel refugees.

He said three refugees, one of whom claimed to have been an official translator for Fidel Castro during Castro's trips to the Soviet Union, gave him information about Cuba's alleged possession of nuclear weapons and chemical warfare equipment.

Molina said he gave the information to the CIA, then turned it over to Reagan campaign officials because he felt the Carter administration 'was not going to do anything.'

He said he did not necessarily believe the information, but recommended the Reagan people 'authenticate' it and use it 'as an expose of Carter's weakness in foreign policy,' especially toward Cuba.

He said he 'wanted to make sure the material was in the hands of somebody who could... make use of this.'

The incident has stirred up controversy in Washington where it recently came to the attention of a House subcommittee investigating the passing of inside information from the Carter White House to the 1980 Reagan campaign.

A 2,400-page report issued by the subcommittee includes a memo written by Reagan campaign aide Belden Belle partially describing the information received from Molina.

Two other Reagan campaign aides, Richard Allen and Roger Fontaine, also were aware of the information, according to the subcommittee's documents. Molina said he had met Belle and Fontaine in Washington in the 1970s while serving as a registered representative of Nicaraguan strongman Anastasio Somoza.

Allen later became Reagan's national security adviser and Fontaine served as a Latin American analyst on the National Security Council. Neither is still with the Reagan administration.

The subcommittee concluded that although it appeared Reagan campaign aides 'did not trust' Molina, they had not 'discouraged Molina from providing sensitive intelligence to the campaign, even though he may have had access to government intelligence sources.'